

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 19 and 21 are amended for reasons other than patentability over the applied references. These are merely clarifying amendments, and are not believed to affect the scope of the claims in any way, and no estoppel is intended.

Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 13, 17-19, 21 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,184,421 B1; hereinafter “Liu”).

Claims 2, 7, 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Ogier (U.S. Patent No. 7,031,288 B2).

Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Rhee (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0099221 A1).

Claims 14, 16, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Riihinens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,331 B1; hereinafter “Riihinens”).

Claims 15 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Riihinens as applied to claim 11, 14, 19 and 22 above, and further in view of Zhu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,527; hereinafter “Zhu”).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

As noted above, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 13, 17-19, 21 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,184,421

B1; hereinafter “Liu”). For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a system comprising, *inter alia*, “a comparing unit operable to compare a first relay node sequence number with a second relay node sequence number, the first relay node sequence number being contained in a management packet received by **at least one node transmitting the data packet**, the second relay node sequence number being stored in a neighbor table of the at least one node; and a control unit operable to determine whether or not **the data packet is retransmitted by the at least one node** according to a result of the comparison” (emphasis added). In other words, the claimed at least one node transmits a data packet, and the claimed control unit determines whether the claimed at least one node **retransmits** the data packet.

Liu discloses that in an ad-hoc communications network, when a node receives a unicast message, the receiving node determines whether the message is a duplicate (col. 29, lines 25-37). Specifically, Lui discloses that if the received message is a duplicate, the received message is destroyed. On the other hand, if the received message is not a duplicate, then the received message is either forwarded to a destination unit within the receiving node or forwarded to another node. Lui merely discloses that the receiving node may transmit a received unicast message, but does not teach or suggest **retransmitting** the received unicast message once it has already been forwarded.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Lui.

Independent claims 6, 11, and 19 recite one or more features analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over Lui for at least reasons analogous to those given above with respect to claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

As noted above, claims 2, 7, 12 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Ogier (U.S. Patent No. 7,031,288 B2), claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Rhee (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0099221 A1), claims 14, 16, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Riihinien et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,331 B1; hereinafter “Riihinien”), and claims 15 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Riihinien as applied to claim 11, 14, 19 and 22 above, and further in view of Zhu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,527; hereinafter “Zhu”). For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Neither Ogier, Rhee, Riihinien nor Zhu, independently or in combination, address the deficiencies of Liu noted above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 7,8, 12, 14-16, 20, and 22-24 are patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 1, 6, 11, or 19.

New Claims

Applicant adds new claim 28, support for which may be found throughout the specification. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 28 is patentable at least by virtue of the subject matter recited therein, and at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

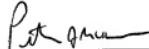
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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